

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1205

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12438

EXDIS

FOR PARKER AND ATHERTON FROM SAXBE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJECT: AID FOR INDIA

1. M.G. KAUL DISCLOSED TO US LAST NIGHT THAT HE WAS PROCEED-
ING TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR US ASSISTANCE TO INDIA ON TTN BASIS
OF TALKS WHICH HE HAD IN WASHINGTON AND WHICH HE INTENDS TO CON-
TINUE WHEN HE GOES BACK THERE FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING.
KAUL TOLD US THAT HE WAS PLANNING A PROGRAM OF \$65 MILLION IN FER-
TILIZER ASSISTANCE AND \$10 MILLION IN SPARE PARTS WHICH HE HAD
WORKED OUT WITH AID OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. THIS WAS WHAT HE
WOULD DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER AND HE SAID SOMEONE FROM
AID MIGHT COME TO DELHI.

2. I HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT WE HERE WERE GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING TO
DO WITH DESIGNING THE NEW AID PROGRAM. NOT ONLY HAVE WE NOT BEEN
CONSULTED ON THESE PROPOSALS TO KAUL; WE HAVE HAD ONLY A VERY
BRIEF TELEGRAM ON A CONVERSATION BETWEEN KAUL AND AID. WE CANNOT
START AID UP AGAIN IN ISOLATION FROM OUR OTHER BUSINESS WITH IN-
DIA. FURTHERMORE, I AM GOING TO HAVE TO DEFEND THIS NEW AID ON THE
HILL. FERTILIZER LOOKS TO ME TO BE VERY CLOSE TO A GIFT OF MONEY
AND I DON'T WANT TO GET US INVOLVED IN THE FINANCIAL MACHINATIONS
OF THE GOVERNMENT HERE. I BELIEVE WE CAN DEVISE BETTER PROGRAMS
MUCH MORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR
PEOPLE. ALSO, A PROGRAM INVOLVING FERTILIZER CORPORATION OF
INDIA WOULD BE SURE TO CAUSE CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM UNLESS
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EXISTING PROBLEMS WITH FCI ARE RESOLVED.

3. AT ANY RATE, WE NEED TO KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT CURRENT INDIAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BEFORE WE CAN DECIDE WHAT KINDS OF PROGRAMS BEST SUIT BOTH OUR RELATIONS AND OUR POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS ON THE HILL. BUT KAUL IS NOW SO SET ON A COURSE APPARENTLY BLESSED BY WASHINGTON THAT HE DOESN'T WANT US TO LOOK AT ANYTHING OTHER THAN FERTILIZER AND SPARE PARTS. SOMEHOW WE HAVE TO GET THIS THING BACK ON THE TRACKS SO THAT MY AID PEOPLE HERE CAN START DOING THEIR JOB AND ULTIMATELY GET ON TO NEGOTIATING A PROGRAM WITH THE GOI HERE IN DELHI.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING TOLD TWO THINGS, FIRST, EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED WITH KAUL IN WASHINGTON? WERE THERE INFORMAL UNDERSTANDINGS AS HE SUGGESTS? SECOND, HOW CAN WE GET BACK TO A SITUATION IN WHICH MY PEOPLE HAVE A CHANCE WITH THE INDIANS TO SURVEY THE FIELD AND WORK OUT WITH YOU IN WASHINGTON THE KINDS OF THINGS WE OUGHT TO DO IN A NEW INDIAN AID PROGRAM?
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